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Change in photograph policy

Effective immediately, photographs submitted by "hard copy" to The Baptist Record for publication will not be returned. Due to the increase in postage costs, it is more cost-effective for those submitting photographs to make extra prints of photos submitted than it is to pay for the postage of a self-addressed return envelope. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Super Summer marks 20th anniversary

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor, and local reports

"Super Summer is the best kept secret in the state of Mississippi to make an impact on the spiritual lives of teens," said Mike Brister, associate pastor for youth ministry at First Church, Brookhaven.

For 20 years, Super Summer has offered a unique opportunity for student leaders to gather on the campus of Mississippi College, Clinton, for intensive leadership training, worship, Bible study, and other activities. The event, held July 7-11, hosted 689 students. The event is sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

According to Sue McAllister, the team leader coordinator and currently interim youth minister at Calvary Church in Tupelo, "The first Super Summer was held in 1976 in Texas, and was begun by Barry St. Clair, Chuck Flowers, and Billy Beacham. They wanted to offer a leadership camp, very intensive, but fun. Then in the mid-80's, several youth ministers from Mississippi went to Texas to observe and came back saying, 'You know, this is what we need.' We need to disciple our kids, the few that want more than just Sunday and Wednesday nights. Even though it would cost us an extra week of the summer, we knew it would be worth it for the core kids."

"Over the years, we've wanted to stay true to the original charter," said McAllister. "The idea has been, 'bring us your best and we'll make them better.' This is for the core kids in the youth group, who are consistent, always there, not just coming to church but coming to be the church, but the leaders. The



PURPLE SCHOOL SHENANIGANS — Students and leaders from the Purple School pose with swimming toys twisted into letter shapes. Shown, from left, are Randee Jernigan, First Church, Tupelo; Maggie Blackwell, First Church, Tupelo; Kelly Griffith, Gaston Church, Booneville; and Stefanie Jovonovich, Shades Crest Church, Birmingham, Ala. (Photo by Tony Martin)

ones who charge their campus to take Christ to their peers. We wanted to bring the kids here over several years, to have them grow in levels of intensity from learning or renewing the basics in those early years and then building on a Christian world view ... understanding apologetics, really trusting the Bible to be the word of God. We want kids to be equipped to walk in the Word and to know the truth of it."

After registration on Saturday, students were introduced to their "schools." The students are grouped by age into the color-coded schools, with the Purple School being available for students who have attended every year they have been eligible to come. After dinner, students attended the United Celebration, a high-energy and intense worship service. Students then had some down time before returning to their dorms for prayer groups and bed. Sunday through Tuesday ran similar schedules, with breakfast, personal quiet time, meetings by school, recreation, the United Celebration, and dorm prayer groups filling the days. Wednesday, the last day, ran a truncated schedule with meetings by schools and the closing celebration before departing campus.

"This is not a camp," said McAllister. "This is a conference for students who want to be equipped to be leaders. The requirements and standards for the students attending have intensified."

Some of the requirements students are expected to fulfill before attending Super

Summer are that they be a Christian, a true believer; evidences that they are growing in their faith; consistency in Sunday School, worship, and other youth ministry events; involved in a discipleship small group; have earned the right to be heard when sharing their faith; share their testimony in the youth group; memorize ten verses a year; journal and graph their spiritual growth as a believer; find a place of service; and returning students write essays sharing what their goals are. "These aren't requirements set just so a kid can come to Super Summer," said McAllister. "Hopefully, these requirements are a way of life."

So with the bar set so high, conventional wisdom would dictate that not many kids would participate in Super Summer. Right?

Wrong. "We are amazed at the return rate for students," said McAllister. "Last year, we had about 150 first year students. This year, we had over 80% of those return. For instance, last year there were 110 eighth graders, and this year, there are 81 of those kids back."

Super Summer requires that each student be present for all sessions, which means, "if they're pitcher for their softball team and have a tournament that week, they have to make a choice," said McAllister.

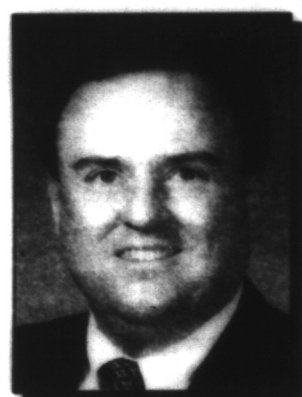
For more information on Super Summer, contact Rene Edwards at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 292-3283 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 283. E-mail redwards@mbcb.org.



PRAISE AND WORSHIP — Students attending Super Summer at Mississippi College worship the Lord during United Celebration, one of the components of the event held July 7-11. (Photo by Tony Martin)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
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Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:

Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800

Fax: (601) 292-3330

E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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The great gambling giveaway

Wayne Pinkerton has never been inside the casinos that now dot the Mississippi Gulf Coast in every direction, but he can tell you the exact day each one reopened after Hurricane Katrina.

"When the casinos were all closed down after Katrina, no one came to the church asking for money or any other benevolence because they had lost everything gambling — not one person," said Pinkerton, former church administrator at First Church, Biloxi, and currently the procurement officer at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

"However, when one of the casinos would reopen, the church's telephone would start ringing — I mean, the very next morning. People were pleading for help. That would happen every time another casino reopened," he said.

How did Pinkerton know those folks had been to the casinos? "Some of them were very honest about it but others, when I would ask for their driver's license to verify identification, would have to thumb through ten or more 'frequent-player' casino club cards to find it. If

that wasn't a clue, all I had to do was look at the T-shirts and hats with casino logos they were wearing."

Personal and family wreckage are merely two parts of the dark underbelly of Mississippi's gambling explosion that supporters don't want to talk about. Members of the state's gambling/political complex get mighty anxious when such negative

subjects are brought up, because that's not the bright, progressive picture of the industry that they promote without ceasing.

In August 2005, when Governor Haley Barbour broke his promise to the people of Mississippi not to allow any gambling expansions and called a special session of the Mississippi Legislature to legalize land-based gambling, we were told that the gamblers had threatened to pull up stakes and leave Mississippi if they were not allowed to move off the beaches.

We were told that uncountable riches would come our way if only the gamblers got what they demanded. (Sound familiar? Think alcohol.) We were told of the unimaginable tax collections that would come our way. (Sound familiar? Think alcohol.) We were told that it would be worth the small social cost involved. (Sound familiar? Think alcohol.)

We were told scary stories of destitution and unemployment unless the casinos came onshore. We were told the "Mississippi Miracle" of gambling prosperity would vanish without onshore casinos.

We were told all that and so much more, but not mentioned in the rush by the governor and legislators to accommodate the gamblers in the 2005 special session were the tremendous, inarguable human tragedies wrought by the presence of gambling in our state. We weren't told of the shivering children locked in cars in casino parking lots while parents gambled away their paychecks. We weren't told of the embezzlements, thefts, robberies, and frauds perpetrated to gain gambling money when all other financial resources had been lost at the gambling tables.

We weren't told of the addictions and obsessions that always — always — follow legalized gambling. We weren't told of the bankers, teachers, band directors, police officers, and foundation directors who would fall prey to gambling and who now occupy prison cells. We weren't told of the young children who only see their fathers or mothers during jail visitation hours. We weren't told of the suicides by forlorn gambling addicts who believed they had no reason left to live.

Yet the state's gambling/political complex, which includes the governor, a majority of the members of the Legislature, some members of the secular news media and business community, and even a few Baptists, pressed forward during the special session and compounded the original mistake of allowing legalized gambling in the first place by giving the gamblers everything they demanded during the special session.

Pinkerton's experience on the Gulf Coast, which is shared by just about every Mississippi Baptist pastor and church staffer who has ever served in a gambling area, has left him deeply concerned for the future.

"We're raising a generation of people — young people — who see gambling simply as a way of life, just part of the landscape now in Mississippi. They don't remember Mississippi without legalized gambling. Those people are going to have a whole different view of gambling in the days to come," he said.

As we near the second anniversary of the great 2005 special session giveaway by our governor and legislators, that's some pretty serious food for thought.

How legislators voted on land-based gambling (HB 45)

* denotes member of a Mississippi Baptist church

House of Representatives YEA-60 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Akins, Noel*	Oxford	12
Bailey, Willie	Greenville	49
Baker, Mark	Brandon	74
Banks, Earle	Jackson	67
Bentz, Leonard	Biloxi	116
Blackmon Jr., Edward	Canton	57
Broomfield, Billy	Moss Point	110
Brown, Cecil	Jackson	66
Burnett, Clara	Tunica	9
Calhoun, Credell	Jackson	68
Carlton, Virginia*	Columbia	100
Clark, Bryant	Pickens	47
Clarke, Alyce	Jackson	69
Coleman, Linda	Mound Bayou	29
Coleman, Mary	Jackson	65
Comprella, J.P.	Bay St. Louis	82
Davis, Lee Jarrell	Hattiesburg	102
Dedeaux, Dirk*	Gulfport	95
Denny, Bill	Jackson	64
Espy III, Henry	Clarksdale	26
Evans, James	Jackson	70
Flags Jr., George	Vicksburg	55
Fredericks, Frances	Gulfport	110
Guice Jr., Daniel	Ocean Springs	114
Hamilton, Frank	Hurley	109
Harrison, Esther	Columbus	41
Hinds Sr., John	Greenville	50
Holland, Steve	Plantersville	16
Holloway Sr., Gregory	Hazlehurst	76
Ishee, Roger	Gulfport	118
Janus, Michael	Biloxi	117
Johnson III, Robert	Natchez	94
Malone, Bennett	Carthage	45
Martinson, Rita	Madison	58
Mayhall Jr., W.T.	Southaven	40
Mayo, John	Clarksdale	25
Moak, Bobby*	Bogue Chitto	53
Moore, John*	Brandon	60
Morris, Leonard	Batesville	11
Myers, David	McComb	98
Norquist, David	Cleveland	28
Patterson, Randall	Biloxi	115
Peranich, Diane	Pass Christian	121
Read, John*	Gautier	112
Reeves, John*	Jackson	71
Robinson Jr., Walter	Bolton	63

Simpson Jr., James*

Smith, Clayton*	Smith, Ferr
Snowden, Greg*	Staples, Gary
Straughter, Rufus	Thomas, Sara
Upshaw, Jessica	Watson, Percy
Whittington, May	Woods, Tommy
Young Sr., Charles	Zuber III, Hank

NAY-53 (against land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Aldridge, Brian*	Tupelo	17
Arinder, Tracy	Morton	75
Baker, Larry*	Senatobia	8
Barnett, Jim	Brookhaven	92
Beckett, Jim*	Bruce	23
Bondurant, Sidney	Grenada	24
Bounds, Scott*	Philadelphia	44
Buck, Kelvin	Holly Springs	5
Chism, Gary*	Columbus	37
Cummings, Ricky	Iuka	1
Dickson, Reecy	Macon	42
Eaton, Bo*	Taylorville	79
Ellington, Jim*	Raymond	73
Fillingane, Joey*	Sumrall	101
Fleming, Erik	Jackson	72
Formby, Mark*	Picayune	109
Franks Jr., Jamie	Mooreville	19
Frierson, Herb*	Poplarville	106
Gadd, Jack	Hickory Flat	13
Gibbs, David	West Point	36
Gregory, James*	Louisville	43
Gunn, Philip*	Clinton	56
Hamilton, Eugene	Olive Branch	6
Horne, Steve*	Meridian	81
Howell, Bobby*	Kilmichael	46
Hudson, Joey*	Monticello	91
Jennings, Wanda	DeSoto	7
Lott, Mike*	Petal	104
Markham Jr., J.B.	G'wood Springs	20
McBride, Warner*	Courtland	10
McCoy, Billy*	Rienzi	3
Miles, Bill	Fulton	21
Mims V. Sam	McComb	97

Pass Christian

Brantton	Carthage
Meridian	Laurel
Belzoni	Indianola
Diamondhead	Hattiesburg
Schlatter	Byhalia
Meridian	Ocean Springs

Montgomery, Pat

Moss, Harvey*	Nicholson, Billy*
Parker, Deryk*	Reed, Dannie*
Reynolds, Tommy*	Robinson, Eric*
Rogers, Margaret	Rogers, Ray
Rotenberry, Clinton*	Smith, Jeff*
Stringer, Johnny	Sullivan, Preston*
Turner, Jerry	Vince, Robert
Walley, Shaun*	Ward, Greg
Warren, Joe	Weatherby, Tom*
Wells-Smith, Carmel*	

PRESENT

Ellis, Tyrone	Greenwood
Perkins Sr., William	

NOT VOTING

Huddleston, Robert	Sumner
Middleton, Chuck	Port Gibson
Scott, Omeria	Laurel
Shows, Bobby*	Ellisville

ABSENT

Masterson, Chester	Vicksburg
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Mississippi Senate

YEA-29 (for land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Albritton, Sid*	Picayune	40
Brown, Terry*	Columbus	17
Burton, Terry	Newton	31
Chaney, Mike	Vicksburg	23
Clarke, Buck	Hollandale	22
Cuevas, Scotty	Pass Christian	46
Davis, Doug*	Hernando	1
Dawkins, Debbie	Pass Christian	48
Dearing, Bob	Natchez	37
Doxey, Ralph	Holly Springs	2

Portotoc

Corinth	Lucedale
Ackerman	Water Valley
Quitman	New Albany
Pearl	Mendenhall
Columbus	Montrose
Okolona	Baldwyn
Sandy Hook	Leakesville
Ripley	Mt. Olive
Florence	Pascagoula

NAY-21 (against land-based gambling)

Name	City	District
Browning, Nicky	Portotoc	3
Bryan, Hob*	Amory	7
Butler, Kevin	Magnolia	38
Carmichael, Videt*	Meridian	33
Flowers, Merle	Southaven	19
Frazier, Hillman	Jackson	27
Gordon, Jack*	Okolona	8
Hyde-Smith, Cindy*	Brookhaven	39
Jackson, Gary*	French Camp	15
King Jr., Tom*	Petal	44
Lee, Perry*	Mendenhall	35
Little, Travis*	Corinth	4
Mettel, Nolan	Sardis	10
Nunnelee, Alan*	Tupelo	6
Pickering, Stacey*	Soso	42
Thomas, Joseph	Yazoo City	21
Tollison, Gray	Oxford	9
Turner, Bennie	West Point	16
Walley, Shannon*	Leakesville	43
White, Richard*	Terry	29
Wilemon Jr., J.P.	Belmont	5

PRESENT

Goloff, Tommy	Biloxi
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ABSENT

Harvey, Billy*	Prentiss
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Teen disowned by father for accepting Christ

SCOTT, Ark. (BP) — Sherzod Odilov, an exchange student from Uzbekistan, did not anticipate the high price he would pay for his decision to follow Christ, but knowing the price Christ paid for him, he stands firm.

When Sherzod, who recently graduated from Jacksonville (Ark.) High School, telephoned his Muslim parents in Uzbekistan to tell them of his newfound faith, his father disowned him, making it clear he was no longer welcome in his home and was never again to speak to his mother or his siblings. He withdrew all funds from Sherzod's U.S. bank account, arranged to cancel his son's U.S. sponsorship and college scholarship, and even drew up legal papers declaring Sherzod is no longer his son.

As devastating as that must be for an 18-year-old, Sherzod remains strong in his commitment to Christ. "I am not sorry I accepted Christ," he said. "I am not sorry for getting baptized. Even though my parents did that, I am not sorry for anything that happened."

He faces his uncertain future with confidence that God will lead him.

Sherzod was led to faith in Christ by Kari Hand, 16, who befriended him and introduced him to the Savior.

"I was strictly Muslim. I prayed five times a day and read the Koran and learned it by heart. I kept it with me all the time," Sherzod said. "All I knew was Islam, and I believed in Islam. I really prayed. I thought all religions except Islam were wrong."

Then he met Kari at a basketball game.

"After that, whenever I talked to her, she always talked about Christianity and her faith and about Grace Baptist Church [in Scott, Ark.]," Sherzod recounted. "When she talked about Christianity, I used to get mad but I didn't tell her that because I didn't want her to feel bad."

"All the time, she spoke about Christianity and about the Bible. She gave me some books about Christianity, too. I really felt strange because I had never heard Christian things before. I didn't believe in Christianity. So I used to get mad all the time when she spoke about that."

As time passed, Kari's testimony and witness began to reach him.

"I got used to that and started to feel something whenever she talked about that," Sherzod continued. "I asked a lot of questions of her, everything about Christianity. I asked them on purpose to see if she could answer or not. She did. She could answer those questions, and that really surprised me."

Then he began to read the Bible and explore the difference between Islam and Christianity. He began to rethink Islam and open his mind to Christianity.

"In Islam we have to pray five times in a day, and it is not guaranteed that you go to heaven. It is not guaranteed that all your sins are going to be forgiven," he said, "but when I read the Bible, I began to realize I had been following something that was wrong all my life."

Sherzod began attending Grace Church, where Kari is a member. He liked the church, the people, pastor Jerry Terrell, and the youth group.

"The preaching of Brother Jerry really touched my heart," Sherzod said.

Then one day while Kari was on the phone with him, she asked if he was ready to accept Christ.

"That really touched my heart, too, because I had been wanting to do that for a long time, but I didn't know how to start. I didn't really know how to do that. So, I said, 'OK, what am I supposed to do?'"



CUT OFF — Uzbekistan exchange student Sherzod Odilov (right) is being assisted in seeking religious asylum in the U.S. by Linda Hand (left), whose daughter Kari (second from right) led him to Christ, and by Jerry Terrell (second from left), pastor of Grace Church in Scott, Ark. Odilov's father disowned him after he converted from Islam to Christianity. (BP photo by Charlie Warren)

Kari, who had been trained in Evangelism Explosion, guided him through what it means to confess sin, repent and place his trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and Sherzod responded by praying to receive Christ.

In conversations with Terrell about seeking baptism, they decided he should share his decision to his parents. Sherzod said his parents had always shown their love for him, met his needs and supported him in every way. He thought they would support his decision.

He phoned his parents on his dad's birthday. "I said, 'Dad, I have to tell you something very important. It's very important to me and it's a big change, and I hope you are not going to get mad or upset with me,'" Sherzod told him.

His father told him he could never be angry at anything Sherzod did.

"I told him I accepted Christ and that I'm getting ready to get baptized," Sherzod said. "He kept silent for a couple of minutes. I said, 'Dad, are you OK?' and he said, 'Sherzod, I don't think the thing you are doing is right, and I didn't really expect

that from you. If you are sure the thing you are doing is right, and if you are not going to follow Islam, there is no hope for you to come to Uzbekistan."

"If you ever come to Uzbekistan, don't ever come to my house. I don't want you to talk to your brother or sister or to Mom or to any other relatives."

"He hung up the phone," Sherzod said. "After a couple of minutes, I tried to call him again, but he wouldn't pick up the phone. I tried to call him every day for a couple of weeks, but no one picked up the phone."

Terrell speculated that the father's decision may have been motivated by love and fear. Uzbekistan is 88% Muslim. Sherzod's father may have feared for Sherzod's life and for the lives of his family.

"I don't blame his parents or anyone else, and I don't want him to hold anything against his parents," Terrell said. "They are loving parents. They have done what they believe is the best thing to do. We just need to gather around this young man and help him."

'Christian' equals free?

WASHINGTON (BP) — Countries with Christian roots are the most religiously free domains in the world, according to the Center for Religious Freedom at the Hudson Institute in a forthcoming report. The report ranked more than 100 countries according to the quality of religious freedom based on the country's religious background. The only countries to receive an ideal score were the United States and Estonia, both with Protestant backgrounds, and Hungary and Ireland, both with Catholic backgrounds. The results of the report were announced July 9 in a briefing at the Hudson Institute in Washington. A six-member panel, which included Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, spoke on the importance of securing religious liberty in countries where such freedom is most violated. The panelists cited the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a standard that all countries, regardless of religious affiliation, should uphold. Adopted by the United Nations in 1948, the declaration obligates the international community to treat its citizens humanely. The full report, titled *Religious Freedom in the World 2007*, will be released in early 2008.

Looking back

10 years ago

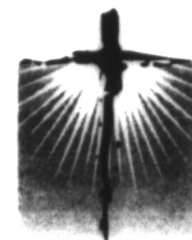
Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, and Henry Holman, chairman of the board of Jitney-Jungle, are named regional co-chairs for the capital campaign for Southern Baptists' two national conference centers, Glorieta and Ridgecrest.

20 years ago

Herschell Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City and a member of the Peace Committee, is satisfied with the committee's report. He's not happy with it, but he's satisfied. "Happy means you got everything you want," Hobbs said.

50 years ago

Jerry Delaughter, of First Church, Natchez, representing Mississippi, won first place in the southwide Young People's speakers tournament held at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Correction

On page one of the June 28 issue, Michael F. Corley was listed as a new trustee of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Corley was unable to serve and a substitute nomination was approved by messengers to the 2007 Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio. Justin Peters, staff evangelist at First Church, Vicksburg, will serve as a LifeWay trustee with a term ending in 2009.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritu-
al guidance.

SPIRITUAL INSOMNIA

As with virtually every other area of our human existence, we are discovering more and more about our need for sleep. It has long been understood that sleep is necessary for physical refreshment and rejuvenation and clearly now we know that it is vitally important to our mental and emotional well-being. Hospitals all across the country now have sleep centers that can discover, diagnose, and in many cases help folks who cannot sleep. Insomnia is that terrible struggle that takes place for many people each night whereby they simply cannot go to sleep. There are a lot of reasons why people cannot sleep and get a good night's rest. Sometimes the reasons are external like a barking dog or a snoring mate while at other times they are internal such as an illness, over or under exertion, breathing problems, or weight issues. Whatever the cause, studies show that millions of Americans do not get the proper sleep or rest at night. As a result, we are bombarded by ads recommending some pill that will enable us to get to sleep. Constant insomnia is not a good thing. But other than being wide-eyed in the middle of the night, what are the symptoms that show up from having insomnia? While there are other things that reveal insomnia, three of the top revelations that someone is living with insomnia are (1) daytime sleepiness, (2) difficulty concentrating and focusing on a task, and (3) irritability.

When I recently read that in an article, I began to think differently about some things that I had long wondered about. For instance it seems to me that there are a lot of times that



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

some of us are sleeping in church. I mean literally but at other times and even more significantly spiritually sleeping. In the realm of spiritual perception, activity, and productivity, we just somewhat drag around. It caused me to rethink and wonder if some of the Lord's people just have spiritual insomnia. There may even be a case of this in the scripture. It may well be that some of us are not able to do what the Lord wants us to do because we are not getting the proper spiritual rest when we are supposed to be in a time of spiritual renewal and rejuvenation.

I don't know but possibly that is what happened to Eutychus. In Acts 20, we find this young fellow at a church meeting with the featured speaker being none other than the Apostle Paul. The place was packed and no doubt, there was excitement in the room. However, Eutychus found him a seat on the window ledge and as Paul preached, he fell asleep. Not only did he fall asleep, he fell out of the window and they thought he was dead. Through the years, I have taken some comfort in the fact that if Paul, the great preacher, thinker, and missionary for the Lord, could not keep folks awake then how in the world could I ever be expected to keep everybody alert and engaged in what I was saying. Just as with folks who get up, head off to work in the morning, and are not alert and may be disengaged mentally and emotionally, some people show up

for kingdom work not ready to enter into service for our Lord with energy, excitement, and genuine spiritual passion.

I have also wondered if insomnia may have been a part of Samson's eventual fall. We often think about him sleeping, but if you think about it, it was sleeping at the wrong time and the wrong place that added to his other woes. It is for sure that his concentration was not clear, his trust was misplaced, and his actions became more and more improper. When I discovered that one of the results of insomnia is irritability, I even wondered if maybe that was the problem, with which Thomas struggled. We have named him Doubting Thomas, but sometimes I have thought that he could be better described as Negative Thomas or Irritable Thomas. It seems as though he was the one in the disciple group who could always come up with a negative word. It almost seems as though he lived on the edge of irritability.

Now for many of you, you have never run into any of these people in or around your church and thank goodness, this is not the bulk of God's people for sure. But maybe if we could determine the saints who are suffering from spiritual insomnia the same way the sleep studies do we could discover some spiritual help that would overcome the results of our sleeplessness. Let me just suggest a couple of things to each of us.

We need proper physical rest in the Lord. Sometimes we are so focused on serving, so tasked oriented in our spiritual walk, and encouraging people to go more, give more, serve more, take on another responsibility, and add one more package to their load that we forget that proper rest is important also. Our Lord Jesus, who was the fullness of God and equally and totally man, knew that there were times when He must pull away from the crowds, have alone time with the Father, and disengage from doing and going. It was a part of the pattern of His life and ministry. We would be wise to make sure that it is a part of our walk with Him and then when it is time to serve we can get on with the business at hand.

One other simple but wonderful truth is that we need to spiritually rest in the Lord. One of the major problems that people have with severe insomnia is often the fact that they just cannot turn their brain off and let the issues of life continue without their attention for a while and simply relax physically, mentally, emotionally, and most of all spiritually. I know that sounds easy and yet for some folks it is almost impossible. God opens up all of His care and support to us and invites us to trust Him. Clearly, Jesus was able to do this and could sleep on a little ship on the sea even when the powerful winds were blowing and the storms were battering the boat. The Apostle Peter learned this great truth and said, "Casting all your care upon him for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7). To the degree that we are able to do that, we will be able to find strength for our service and serenity for our sleep.

The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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Children's Ministry Day set for Feb '08

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The first-ever national Children's Ministry Day is aiming to involve children in missions projects across the country.

On Feb. 16, 2008, all children's groups in churches are encouraged to join with 100,000-plus members of Girls in Action (GA) and Children in Action (CiA) organizations affiliated with Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) to actively minister and witness in their communities for a concerted one-day effort.

Mitzi Eaker, wMu children's ministry consultant, said children involved in GA and CiA actively learn about and do missions throughout the year but the focus on doing missions across the country on a special designated day will "be exciting to see."

Hope for the Hungry is the theme for the 2008 day of ministry as children are encouraged to serve those who are in need of food and nourishment

as a tangible part of wMu's focus on poverty through its Project HELP ministry.

"Participation will help children understand the needs of others and grow in their ability to minister to others as Christ did," Eaker said. "As they serve, children will realize that God can use them in a mighty way, even now while they are young, to share His love, and minister to others."

To help plan and implement the event, a complete Children's Ministry Day promotional pack will be available from wMu in November, including project ideas, learning activities for before and after the project, a children's sermon, ideas for involving families, and a variety of promotional materials.

To order, visit www.wmu.com or call wMu customer service toll-free at (800) 968-7301.

Scheduled to coincide with Focus on wMu week each year, Children's Ministry Day (at www.childrensmissions.com)

will be held annually on the third Saturday of February.

WMU leaders list a number of goals for ongoing missions education and involvement through Girls in Action or Children in Action:

- Demonstrate to children how God is at work in the world through stories from the mission field.

- Encourage children to learn and apply the Bible to their lives.

- Show children the power of prayer as they are taught how to pray for needs around them, missionaries, people groups and missions in general.

- Cultivate a healthy curiosity as children learn about different cultures and religions and realize that all people need to know Jesus.

For more information about GA, visit the GA website at www.gapassport.com. For more information on Children in Action, visit www.wmucia.com.

HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

Antioch Church, Brandon: Homecoming and Revival, July 22-25; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ricky Kennedy, speaker; Eric McNair, music.

Calvary Church, Carroll County: Revival, July 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. nightly; Eddie Carpenter, speaker; Bill Wilson, music.

Centerville Church, Centerville community, Jones County: Homecoming, July 29; services followed by meal; Keith Gordon, speaker.

Concord Church, Little Yazoo: Revival, Aug. 5-8; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.

Corinth Church, Singleton: Revival, July 29-Aug. 2, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily; Don Taylor, speaker; Jeffrey Jones, music; John Sharp, pastor.

Ebenezer Church, Kosciusko: Revival, July 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker and music; Larry Harvey, pastor.

Freney Church, Carthage: Revival, July 22-25; services, 7 p.m.; Scott Vaughn, speaker; Johnny Eubanks, music.

Goodwater Church, Smith Association: Revival, Aug. 5-8; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and 1:30 p.m. worship; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Nicholas Buchanan, speaker; Mike Walker, pastor.

New Hope Church, Sumrall: Revival, July 22-27; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; John Reid, speaker; Bill Hall, music; Charles Broome, pastor.

Old Hebron Church, Covington/Jefferson Davis Association: Revival, July 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Truman Scarbrough, speaker; Steve Walker, music; Tommy Tanner, pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church, New Hebron: Revival, July 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m., with refreshments following on Wed.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Tim Hubbard, music; Becky Yarbrough, organist; Mary Douglas, pianist; Philip Douglas, pastor.

Shelton Church, Moselle: Revival, July 29-Aug. 1; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and 7 p.m. nightly; James Messer, speaker.

Strong River Church, Simpson Association: Revival and 180th Anniversary, Aug. 22-24, 7 p.m. nightly; Johnny Sykes, speaker; Jason Sullivan, music; Aug. 26, anniversary celebration; 10 a.m. worship, followed by covered dish lunch and praise and song services and anniversary cake. Roger Lee, pastor.

Mt. Zion Church, Simpson Association: Revival, July 29-Aug. 3; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Danny Berry, Andy Boles, Roger Lee, and Jay Westbrook, speakers; Mark Parker, music; Trent Sullivan, pastor.

Victory Church, Bassfield: Revival, July 22-26; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Bruce Jolly, speaker; Bob Thames, music; George Gerald Aultman, pastor.

White Oak Church, Smith County: Revival, July 22-25; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and children's music, 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 5:30 p.m. meal; services at 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, speaker; Ian Richardson, music; Alan Woodward, interim pastor.

Bibliocipher

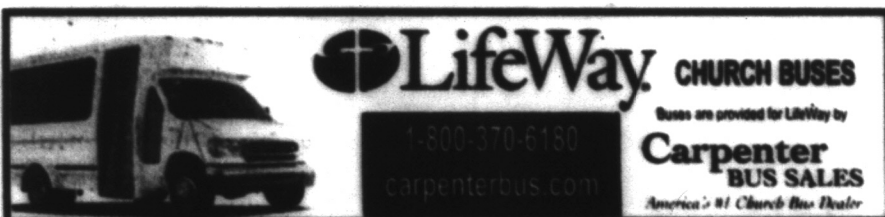
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DLETFB T HOB KANG
BGK, CSGHGLDLE HSOFF
AGN ELQLTDL NSL
UTARZGJ GX RGZ OH O
FTNNFL QSTFZ, SL HSOFF
AGN LANLE NSLELTA.

JOEU NLA: XTXNLLA

Clue: Q = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Ten: Twenty-Nine.



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JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bowman and Dyess, Star Church, Star



2. Baby Dedication, Zion Hill Church, Wesson



3. 50 years of service, Harmony Church, Lincoln Association



4. Acteens, Bethel Church, Smith Association



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

1. **Star Church, Star**, recently licensed Van Dyess to the gospel ministry. Shown are pastor Vic Bowman and Dyess.

2. **Zion Hill Church, Wesson**, held a baby dedication service May 13. Shown from left are Scott and Joanne Allen, Wayne and Heather McKenzie, Chuck and Patty Shelton, and Jason and Mandy Shelton.

3. **Harmony Church, Lincoln Association**, held a recognition service honoring Betty Johnson, Nalty Johnson, Elnora Johnson, and Sally Toler for more than 50 years dedicated service in numerous leadership positions in the church. Speakers for the event were Talmadge Smith, Larry Eickenloff, and Clarence Young. Shown are the participants.

4. **Acteens Margie and Kellie Black of Bethel Church, Smith Association**, carried supplies to the Ronald McDonald House.

5. **Thompson Church, Smithdale**, baptized 10 at the river June 25. Shown are the candidates and pastor Brent Parker.

6. **Indian Springs Church, Jones Association**, recently observed Preschool Recognition Day for the newest members of the preschool division. Shown are the participants. Mike West, pastor.

7. **Calvary Church, Greenwood**, recognized the mother with most children present, oldest mother, and youngest mother on May 13. Shown are Gail Carpenter, Mary L. Braswell, and Sarah May, respectively.

8. **Edwards Church, Edwards**, dedicated a Ten Commandments plaque July 1. Shown with the plaque is John McCall, interim pastor.

9. **GAs from Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie**, recently participated in the M.O.S.T. Project to provide breeding sheep to poor families in Croatia, raising \$973 to purchase seven sheep. Shown are the GAs and their leaders Lisa Hammarstrom and Terri Goodson.



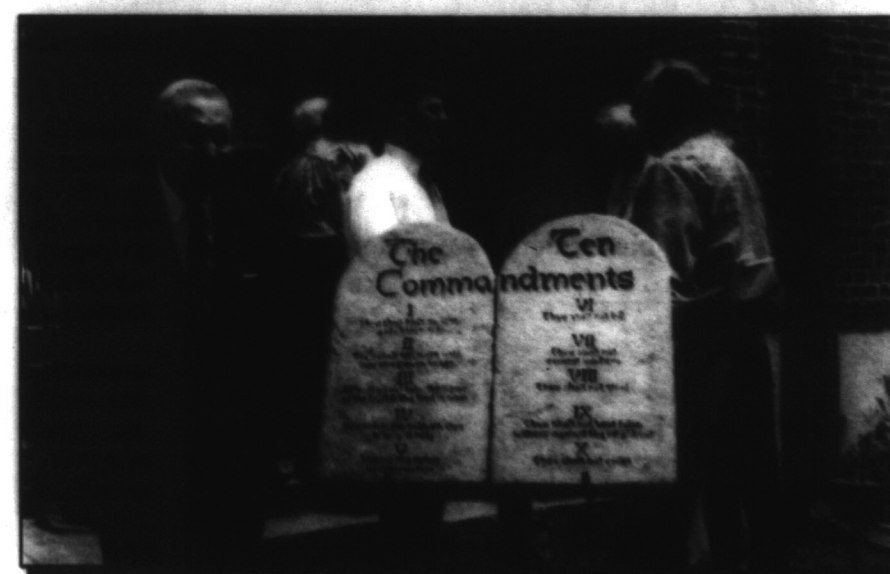
5. Baptism Candidates, Thompson Church, Smithdale



6. Preschool Recognition, Indian Springs Church, Jones Association



7. Mother's Day Recognition, Calvary Church, Greenwood



8. Plaque Dedication, Edwards Church, Edwards



9. GAs, Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie

JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. Bible Drillers, Ackerman Church, Ackerman



11. Children Bible Drillers, Noxapater Church, Noxapater



11. Youth Bible Drillers, Noxapater Church, Noxapater



12. Bible Drillers, Goss Church, Marion County

10. **Ackerman Church, Ackerman**, recognizes its Children and Youth Bible Drillers: front row, Abby Wood, Dayna Presley, Ashton Beals, Leanna Carter, Jennifer Bigley, and Ginny Lucas; back row, Carolyn Lindley, Courtney Irvin, and Ellen Graves.

11. **Noxapater Church, Noxapater**, recognizes its children's Bible Drillers Grayson Freeman, Colton Horne, and Anna Katherine Wells; and youth Bible Drillers Sydney Kirk, Mary Margaret Kirk, Jaqualine Robinson, and Brooke Massey.

12. **Goss Church, Columbia**, recognizes its Bible Drillers: front row, Carlye Broom, Madelyne Ard, and Logan Sears; 2nd row, Conner Sears, Malori Ard, and Daisy Rayborn; 3rd row, Braxton Boyles, Jeremy Moree, and Kaleight White; back row, Vicki Moree, Keifer Dunaway, and Melinda King.

13. The youth of **Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogue Chitto**, attended Centrifuge in Greenville, South Carolina. Front row, Theron Prestridge, Garrett Wallace, Adrienne Wallace, Reid Bales, and Chance Moak; back row, Lauren Wallace, Sharon Moak, Brandon Kent, Darcy Miller, Lindsey Bobkoskie, Ericka Shirt and Ben Moak.

14. **Parkway Church, Kosciusko**, recognized Hilda Brashier for 34 years as church secretary. Shown are pastor Don Cook and Brashier. The church also licensed Chris Cauthen as minister of music and youth; shown are Cook and Cauthen.

15. **Bethesda Church, Terry**, recently had a Disciple Now weekend. Chris Layton led worship and Louis Zinc was the speaker. Pictured are all participants. Robby Britt, pastor. Duncan Tucker, youth minister.

16. **Grace Church, Philadelphia**, is hosting Kutlass at the Neshoba County Fair July 22, 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. Call (601) 527-4979 for information.

17. **First Church, Tupelo**, is hosting a Growing Churches conference July 27-28, with check-in beginning Fri., 5 p.m. and the last session Sat., 10:30 a.m. The conference is sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Lee County Association. Cost is \$5. For more information, call (662) 566-1700.



13. Youth, Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogue Chitto



14. Brashier Recognized, Parkway Church, Kosciusko



14. Cauthen Licensed, Parkway Church, Kosciusko



15. Disciple Now Participants, Bethesda Church, Terry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

1. **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto:** Youth VBS had an enrollment of 18. The children's VBS had 110 enrolled with an average attendance of 102. Shown are the participants at the commencement services June 24.

2. **Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale:** week of June 4th; 93,900 pennies collected for the Memorial to the Missing at the Baptist Building, Jackson.

3. **Ackerman Church, Ackerman:** June 11-15; average

attendance, 102. Shown are the participants.

4. **First Church, Amory;** total enrollment, 210. Shown are the participants.

5. **Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia:** June 4-8; total enrollment of 68; average attendance, 58; \$341 raised for Baptist Children's Village; shown are the participants.

6. **Cane Creek Church, Cane Creek:** June 4-8; over \$2000 in pennies raised for the Baptist Children's Village; shown are the participants.

7. **Sardis Church, Philadelphia,** June 4-8; shown are the participants.



3. Ackerman Church, Ackerman



4. First Church, Amory



5. Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia



6. Cane Creek Church, Cane Creek



7. Sardis Church, Philadelphia

JUST FOR THE RECORD

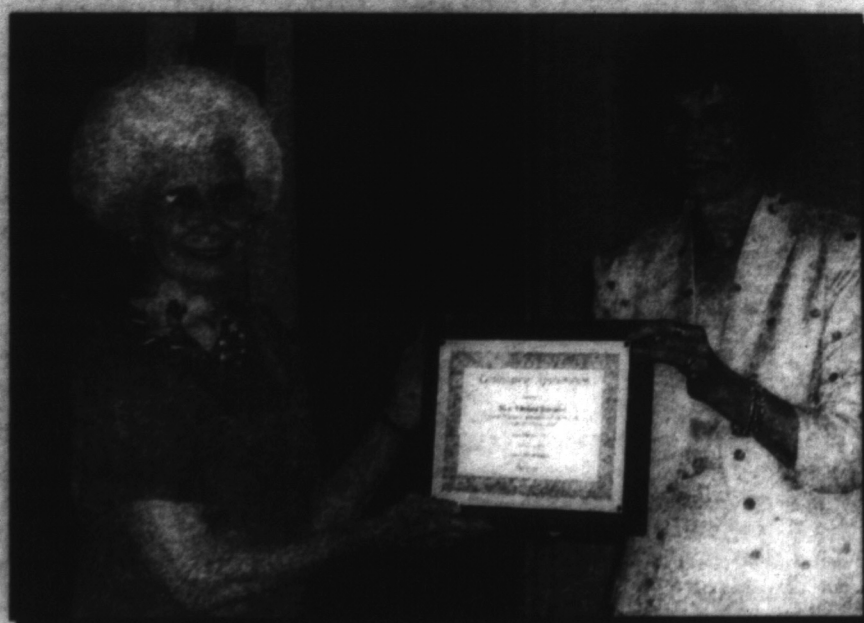
1. **Eastwood Church, Indianola,** held a baby dedication recently. Dedicated were Harris Garcia (Jennifer); Noah Macleod (Beth); Logan Shearer (Brian and Jennifer); and Abel Williamson (Matt, Tracie, and Mattie Beth.) Billy Thomas, pastor.

2. Carol Gunn, right, presented a plaque from Hermanville Church, Hermanville, to Thelma Barland for 40 years of service as church clerk. Barland has been a member of the church for over 70 years.

3. The RAs and GAs of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, recently held their Pinewood Derby races. Boys and girls in grades 1-6 participated in this annual event with grades 1-3 and grades 4-6 competing against each other in a double elimination event. Awards were given to the top three places and best design in each age group: Grades 1-3, third place, Scott Williams; second place, Joseph Weaver, first place, Sarah Cavallo; best design, Kieffer Miller. Grades 4-6, third place, Connor Keenum; second place, Jessica Cavallo; first place, Matt Spencer; best design, Clay Butler.



1. Baby Dedication, Eastwood Church, Indianola



2. Barland honored, Hermanville Church, Hermanville

STAFF CHANGE

Doty Springs Church, Ethel, has called Larry Odom as pastor effective June 25. He and his wife Janis reside in Kosciusko.



Practical Principles for Christian Living



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 7

WHO WILL GET MY VOTE?

By Jimmy Porter



Is it okay to assume you are going to vote? I hope you are not one of the 45 to 65 million eligible American voters who are not registered. Less than fifty percent of the voting population actually

votes in any given election. What is even more troubling is that only about 43 percent of evangelical Christians actually bother to vote in any given election according to Focus on the Family.

Since you are going to vote, who will you choose in this upcoming election? John Quincy Adams, 6th U. S. President, said, "Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost." Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th U. S. President, said, "The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

Perhaps one of the greatest privileges that goes unrecognized is the opportunity



to cast a vote for the candidate of your choice. So many say, "I am just one vote so why does it matter?" By one vote the U. S. House of Representatives elected Thomas Jefferson as President of the United States in 1801. One vote elected Hitler as leader of the German Nazi Party in 1923, and one vote in 1941 kept the Selective Service Act intact just weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Your vote does count so cast it wisely.

Often the question is asked, "Where does this candidate stand on a particular issue?" The best place to find that

answer is to ask the person running for office. If you call them or their campaign headquarters and ask in the proper way, they will tell you. Sometimes they might talk around the issue and never give you a direct answer and if that happens, they have indirectly told you what you need to know.

The Clarion Ledger recently published a couple of articles on the voting records of Mississippi State

Senators and House of Representatives on a few bills they deemed important. It was not exhaustive, but it could prove helpful. Also, the Baptist Record has published the voting record on some issues, especially gambling and bringing the casinos in on land.

Use the internet to search out the voting record of incumbents. With a little time and work you can possibly discover where they stand on certain issues. It is vitally important to know how the candidates feel and vote on the critical issues.

Please allow me to suggest that you never vote for someone solely on name recognition or the fact that they go to your church. In addition, it is never fair to judge someone on one or two minor issues or votes. But if a candidate constantly votes wrong on issues critical to your faith, then help remove him/her from office by voting for someone different.

Louis L'Amour, American writer, puts it succinctly when he said, "To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain."

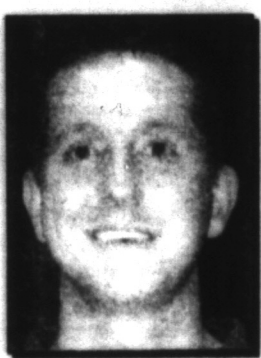
If we desire a better Mississippi, then we must select men and women who love our state, honor God with their lives, and will vote based on their Christian convictions. Just remember, government is not evil, but it does reflect the character of those who sit in the seats of power and decision making.

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action Commission updates via the internet, please e-mail us at rwwood@christianaction.com. Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.

COLLEGE NEWS

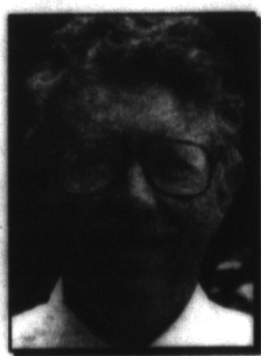
1. Mississippi College is offering an online higher education degree program. For information, contact the graduate office at (601) 925-3225 or visit www.mc.edu/academics/onhighed. All higher education courses will be on line in the fall of 2008.

2. Mississippi native Kelly Wheat is returning home after working at Colorado churches for a half-dozen years to become the new director of Baptist Ministries at Mississippi College. Wheat succeeds Christy Carley who joined the Mississippi Baptist Convention staff in Jackson as associate director of the Collegiate Ministry after eight years at MC. Wheat, who grew up near Prentiss, is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and received a master's of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological seminary. The 33-year-old Mississippian was a student minister at Adaton Church in Starkville and spent a year as the Baptist Student Union intern at Virginia Tech. He and his wife, Rani, are parents of two children, Caden, and Addy, with a baby to be named soon.



Wheat

3. Andy Kanengiser is named Mississippi College's university news coordinator. Kanengiser will be responsible for directing the flow of university news and information to media outlets, publishing news through several channels on the university



Kanengiser

web site, and serving as writer of the university's flagship magazine. Kanengiser comes to Mississippi College from The Clarion-Ledger, where he served as higher education reporter. His responsibilities included coverage of Mississippi's eight public universities, ten private colleges and 15 community colleges. Kanengiser has more than 30 years of experience as a reporter working for the Jackson Daily News, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, The Albany (GA) Herald, Tallahassee Democrat, Florida Times-Union and USA Today. A New Jersey native, Kanengiser earned his bachelor's degree from Penn State University (1973) and his master's degree from Florida State University (1975). Kanengiser is married, has five children and one grandson. He and his family reside in Pearl.

4. William Carey University will hold the Metamorphosis Survival Weekend Aug. 17-19. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Friday. It is designed by the Baptist Student Union to introduce transfer and freshmen students to WCU, and includes meals, small group activities, a community service project, and other events. For information, call (601) 318-6161 or visit www.careybsu.org. A new student orientation, separate from the Survival Weekend, will be held Aug. 17 from 1:30-4 p.m. in the Smith



5. Taylor School, MC

Auditorium in the Thomas Fine Arts Building. For information, call Student Support Services at (601) 318-6443 or 318-6779.

5. Opening its doors to the community this fall, the Taylor School at Mississippi College celebrates the distinguished 40-year career of MC piano faculty member Ralph Taylor who retired in 1999. The school will offer lessons on voice, piano and other musical instruments to youngsters from grade school through high school. Adults on up through grandparents are invited for musical training, too. For more information on the Taylor School, call the MC music department at (601) 925-3440.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

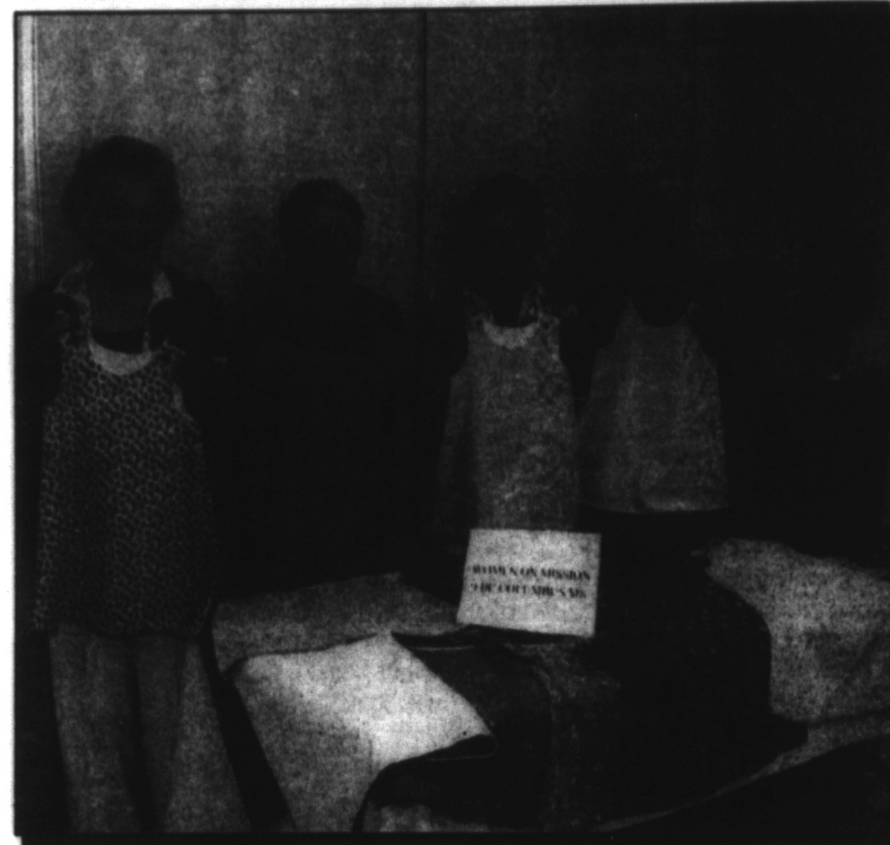


1. Youth attend Centrifuge, First Church, Charleston



2. Children at VBS, First Church, Plantersville

1. The youth from First Church, Charleston, attended Centrifuge at Union University, Jackson, Tenn., June 4-9. Shown are the participants.
2. Children at First Church, Plantersville, held their Vacation Bible School June 11-15. The theme was "Game Day Central." Shown are the participants.
3. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting The House Family in concert July 21, 6 p.m.
4. The Women on Mission group of First Church, Columbus, made dresses and shorts for needy children in Nicaragua. Shown are Irene Lancaster, Betty Coleman, Jane Shalles, Marianna Conner, and Ruth Carter.



4. Women on Mission, First Church, Columbus

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1 & 2 John Sullivan • Executive Director FL Baptist Convention

1 & 2 Emir Caner • Dean, The College at Southwestern

Former Muslim

1 Ergun Caner • President, Liberty Theological Seminary - Former Muslim

MONDAY 7:00pm: Fred Luter • Pastor, Franklin Ave Baptist Church, New Orleans, Louisiana

TUESDAY 7:00pm:

Johnny Hunt • Pastor, FBC, Woodstock, Georgia

Bob Pitman • Pastor, Kirby Woods BC, Memphis, TN

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm: Junior Hill • Evangelist, Hartselle, AL

Special Music • 5:30pm Sun & 6:30pm M - W

Phil Willis and Sons of the Father

Children's Worship Service

Sunday thru Wednesday - John & Patty Yates

FREE LUNCH 11:45am - 12:55pm M-W
with Evangelist James Messer

Host churches for noon services

call churches (or Google) for directions

Mon: West Laurel Baptist Church • 649-1552 - Pastor, Jeff Taylor

Tue: Houston Road Baptist Church • 649-4349 - Pastor, Tommy Brill

Wed: Highland Baptist Church • 649-5599 - Pastor, Roy Crowe

UPCOMING 2007 BIBLE CONFERENCES

Oct 7-10 Smith County Association - Raleigh, MS

Oct 21-24 FBC Ocean Springs - Ocean Springs, MS

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MS POSITIONS

BROOKSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Brooksville, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational music director. Send resumes to Janice Kesler, music chairman, 2922 Fire Tower Rd., Crawford, MS 39743.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, located on 49 south in Braxton, Miss., seeking a Minister of Music. Send resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, attn: music committee, P.O. Box 111, Braxton, MS 39044.

CLEARY BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE, Miss., seeks a part-time children's minister. Please submit resumes to M. Vance, 129 N. Eagle Ridge Drive, Florence, MS 39073.

EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING a full-time Minister of Youth and Recreation. Job requires working with youth and children and Scheduling Family-Life Center events: Send resume to Dr. Jim Everett, 3495 Ephesus Road, Forest, MS 39074 or e-mail: jimincebc@earthlink.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MCCOMB, Miss., seeks a full-time Day Care Director. Please send resumes to 1700

Delaware Ave., McComb, MS 39648. Or email to jody@fbcmmccomb.com.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of youth and/or music. Please send resume' to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewpb@bellsouth.net.

HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, MS is seeking a bi-vocational Minister of Music. Average Church Attendance 150. Please send resume to search committee, 1857 Florence Byram Rd., Florence, MS 39073, or email to resume@hickoryridgebaptist.org.

MT. LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH, Water Valley, Miss., is seeking a full-time or bi-vocational minister. Please submit resume to search committee, 906 Stephens St., Water Valley, MS 38965 or call Betty Melton (662) 473-2095.

MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH, is seeking someone to lead congregational singing, and to direct our choir dur-

ing cantata musicals. If interested, please send your up-to-date resume, along with references, to 814 Marwood Loop SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629. If you have questions, call pastor Rev. Danny Moss at (601) 833-8858.

PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH, Caseyville, Miss., seeks a part-time music minister. Please submit resumes to Philadelphia Baptist Church, 3646 Hwy 550 NW, Wesson, MS 39191.

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WANTED: PART-TIME YOUTH PASTOR. Send resumes and/or inquiries to Rev. Neil Harvison, First Baptist Church, McLaurin, Miss., via email jnharvison@liberty.edu. Or call (601) 583-8007 or (601) 818-1169.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Sharing Christ in All Places

Acts 13:1-3; 14:1-7, 21-23

By Laura Leathers

"The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible," wrote Vincent van Gogh, "but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore." If danger does not stop the commercial fisherman, whose main concern is income, why should it stop those who are fishing for souls and have eternity's values in view?" (Warren Wiersbe, *Be Daring*, Preface).

Paul and Barnabas, "men who risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 15:26), knew all too well the danger of spreading the gospel and fulfilling the Acts 1:8 mandate. Luke transitions, beginning with chapter 13, from writing about Peter's life to the ministry and life of Paul and his mission to take the gospel to the ends of the world and plant

churches wherever he went. Today's lesson is a challenge for you to ...

1. Go (Acts 13:1-3)

Is it go and then pray asking God to bless your endeavors or is it pray and seek the leadership through the power of the Holy Spirit as to where God wants you to go? Notice in this section the church at Antioch "ministered to the Lord and fasted" then the Holy Spirit gave them direction for the next step.

Prophets and teachers (Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul) "were preachers of God's Word and responsible in the early years of the church to instruct local congregations" (MacArthur Study Bible, page 1656). Through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Barnabas and Paul were chosen "for the work to which I (the Holy Spirit) have called them."



Leathers

The church showed their affirmation, support, and identification with these two men by fasting, praying, and laying hands on them. Remember 'Go' begins with a prayer meeting!

2. Evangelize (Acts 14:1-7)

The word evangelism, a word which does not occur in the Bible, means "the active calling of people to respond to the message of grace and commit oneself to God in Jesus Christ" (Holman Bible Dictionary) and it is a mandate for all believers.

As you read the rest of chapter 13 notice the many different places Barnabas and Paul shared the Good News. They went down to Seleucia, sailed to Cyprus, arrived in Salamis, then to Paphos, sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, and finally arrived in Antioch in Pisidia. Here Paul is asked by the rulers of the synagogue to share "any word of exhortation for the people"—which Paul did in verses 16-41. However, in verses 42-52, Paul and Barnabas encounter conflict as the Jews, "seeing the multi-

tudes were filled with envy, contradicting and blaspheming, opposed the things spoken by Paul". Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly to the Jews resulting in the Gentiles hearing and believing, but the Jews raised up persecution and expelled Paul and Barnabas from the region. They shook the dust from their feet and came to Iconium leaving the disciples filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

In Iconium they went to the synagogue and proclaimed Christ. The results: "a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed." But the entire multitude was not willing to accept the plan of salvation. Opposition continued to grow while Paul and Barnabas continued to proclaim the truth. When they learned plans were being made to abuse and stone them they escaped to Lystra, only once again to be met with opposition. There, Paul was stoned and left for dead, but "he rose up" and went with Barnabas to Derbe. Remember 'Evangelize' incorporates the word persecution.

3. Strengthen (Acts 14:21-23)

Once again Paul and Barnabas continued to proclaim

Christ, making many disciples. Then they returned to the areas where they had endured persecution (Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch); "strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God'" (vs. 22). They spoke from experience, encouraged from their hearts, and warned with expectation; life would not be easy as a Christian (Acts 11:26).

Later on in Paul's ministry he wrote, "That the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus" (Philemon 6). Sharing Christ in all places is telling others who Christ is and who you are in Him.

One additional thought from *Spiritual Life Development* by Mildred McMurry, "If you have no desire to share Jesus, then your Christianity is very shallow." So where are you fishing — in the shallow or the deep?

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Dependence

Zechariah 4:1-14

By Charles Rodgers

Church leaders today have learned to employ modern methods, programs and promotional ideas in seeking to carry out their God-given mission to make disciples of all nations. These approaches are varied. Due to technological advances, many church leaders have taken the marketing approach of the business world and applied it to their own tasks. Mass mailings and radio/TV ads are used to attract particular people groups. Video projection systems are being used to convey modern music and sermon presentations that appeal to the technologically affluent public. Specialized and personalized training has enabled large numbers of the church membership to evangelize and disciple new converts effectively. The end result is that

churches utilizing these techniques seem to be growing. New churches are springing up everywhere with new methods and new looks. It seems that God is using these new approaches to reach people groups in a new and exciting way.

The danger of using these modern techniques, however, lies in the temptation of church leaders to rely totally upon methods and expertise rather than upon God. While results from various methods may be impressive, only God's Spirit produces spiritual and eternal results. The Lord has ordained that His people depend on the Spirit's power in carrying out His purposes.

In this second lesson from Zechariah, the focus is placed on one of Zechariah's visions. It is the vision of the golden lamp stand. While there are aspects of



Rodgers

the vision and its interpretation that are complex and confusing, its message is clear. Please notice that there is:

I. A Vision to Ponder (Zechariah 4:1-5)

The apparent time of this vision was during the rebuilding of the temple (see 4:9). The original purpose of the vision may have been to encourage Zerubbabel as he faced difficulties during the rebuilding project and to assure him that the Lord would see that the task was completed. What Zechariah sees is a golden lamp stand with some kind of bowl at the top. This bowl has seven lamps, each of which has seven lips or pipes. The two olive trees are related to the bowl. The vision is nowhere exactly interpreted. We can only surmise that the vision was given to Zechariah so that he could ponder its meaning.

God reveals His truth to us today primarily through His Word; therefore, He expects us to read it and ponder its meaning so we can live according to its truth.

II. A Message to Heed (Zechariah 4:6-10a)

In the middle of the vision, Zechariah inserts a message from God to Zerubbabel. He reminds him that the temple will be finished not by the power or determination of Zerubbabel, but by the Spirit of God. He also encourages Zerubbabel that what he has started he will also finish. The angel reminds the prophet that completion of the temple would prove that this message did indeed come from the Lord and also that Zechariah was a genuine prophet of the Lord.

To be effective servants of the Lord, we must learn to rely on the strength of His Spirit, and not on our own strength. God will accomplish His work in and through us only when we allow His Spirit to strengthen us.

III. A Master to Serve (Zechariah 4:10b-14)

The two olive trees probably stand for the high priest Joshua (see chapter 3) and the governor, Zerubbabel. Zechariah calls them the anointed ones. This is symbolic language indicating the Lord has chosen and appointed

each of them to his particular task. Most Bible scholars see the two anointed ones as a prophetic allusion to the two witnesses of Revelation 11:1-12. The emphasis here is not upon the strength and ability of these two men to actuate God's witness in the world. It is upon the availability of these two men to be anointed by God's Spirit to fulfill their particular roles for the Lord. They are to serve the Lord as they are empowered to do so by the anointing of the Spirit of God.

The omniscient, omnipotent God calls and enables His people to serve Him in carrying out particular tasks in His Kingdom. Human effort will never be sufficient to overcome the difficulties of doing the Lord's work. We must "stand by the Lord" as Zechariah says and we must wait for the power of the Spirit before we will be able to complete the work He has called us to do.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing



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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



1. GAs, First Church, McLaurin



2. Mission Trip, Mt. Vernon Church, Newton Association



3. Swilley, Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



4. Veterans honored, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association

1. **First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg**, recognizes its GAs. Shown, front, are Destiny Milner, Hannah Jacobson, Abby Durham, Carlee Lott, Melanie Linton, Andrea Wilson, Maria Kelly, and Jennifer Pittman; back, Melinda Mixon and Betty Legg.

2. A group from **Mt. Vernon Church, Newton Association**, recently participated in a mission trip to First Church, Pearlinton, helping with painting, carpentry, cleaning, and tile work. Shown are the participants.

3. Brandon Swilley, of **Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg**, participated in a Christian Do Karate tournament in Tennessee June 23, winning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in three different divisions.

4. **Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association**, honored veterans Memorial Day. Shown, front, are T.C. Mauney, Derryl Crawford, and Ricky Jordan; back, Randy Scott and Lyle Bullock.

5. **Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association**, honored their high school and college graduates May 20. Graduates were presented Bibles and had a reception. Shown are Logan Walker, Justin Davis, Aleigha Graves, Cody Bryan, Jarit Peach, and pastor Robert E. Walker.

6. **Beulah Church, Newton County**, presented trophies to its state Bible Drill winners. From left, Karen Lanier, Monica Culpepper, Barbara Harrison, Courtney Lanier, Naomi Massey, Delton Harrison, and Graham Murphee.

7. **Society Hill Church, Oakvale**, recognizes its Bible Drillers. From left, Caleb Coleman, Carrie Dyess, Luke Coleman, and Hope Cook.

8. **Freeny Church, Carthage**, recognizes its high school graduates: from left, Rebecca Roland, Kristin May, and Ginny Mitchell. John Adams, pastor.

9. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, is hosting The House Family in concert July 21, 6 p.m.



5. Graduates, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association



6. Bible Drillers, Beulah Church, Newton County



7. Bible Drillers, Society Hill Church, Oakvale



8. Graduates, Freeny Church, Carthage